

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR DON KNABE

March 3, 2004

The Los Angeles Times recently reported that a State program called Gateway, which is supposed to help uninsured children get medical coverage, was actually causing some infant children to lose coverage. This apparently occurred because some infants who were enrolled in Gateway for a brief period of coverage were inadvertently taken off of longer-lasting Medi-Cal, which covers for at least one year.

Fortunately, a Superior Court judge has ordered the State to fix this so that children whose delivery is covered by Medi-Cal continue to have that coverage during this most critical first year of their lives. As the local government responsible for the public health of more than 1/3 of all Californians, this Board should monitor the situation and do whatever we can to get coverage for these children restored without delay.

The County also needs to ask what the impact of this error has been on the health of our fragile indigent and emergency medical care systems. Some of the children who should have been on Medi-Cal may have received care in County or County-contract emergency rooms, hospitals and facilities as uninsured patients.

**(MORE)**

MOTION

MOLINA	_____
BURKE	_____
YAROSLAVSKY	_____
ANTONOVICH	_____
KNABE	_____

How much care? What is the best and simplest way to get the State-Federal Medi-Cal reimbursement flowing after the fact?

**I, THEREFORE, MOVE THAT** the Board instruct the Department of Health Services, in consultation with the CAO, County Counsel and the Department of Public Social Services, to report back in 30 days on:

1. The status of efforts by the State to restore Medi-Cal coverage for those children who lost it due to Gateway and include recommendations to prevent future disenrollment of others;
2. Local efforts to educate providers on using the newborn referral form, so that infants receive ongoing Medi-Cal coverage in the most expedient and appropriate manner.
3. Information about the local impact of this problem in Los Angeles County, including, if possible, an estimate of Medi-Cal revenues lost by the County.

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RE:e